WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A DNA molecule comprising a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid, wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process.

2. The DNA molecule of Claim 1, wherein the budding mediating motif comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of PTAP (SEQ ID NO:1), PPXY (SEQ ID NO:2), YXXL (SEQ ID NO:3) and a combination thereof.

3. The DNA molecule of Claim 2, wherein the viral protein is a Gag protein of a retrovirus or a matrix protein of a rhabdovirus or filovirus.

4. The DNA molecule of Claim 1, wherein the viral protein is a Gag protein of a retrovirus or a matrix protein of a rhabdovirus or filovirus.

5. The DNA molecule of Claim 1, wherein at least one codon for the budding mediating motif is deleted.

6. The DNA molecule of Claim 5, wherein one or more codons surrounding the budding mediating motif are deleted.

7. The DNA molecule of Claim 1 which further comprises one or more additional nucleic acids, each encoding an additional viral protein.

8. The DNA molecule of Claim 7, wherein the additional viral proteins are selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 Pol, Env, Rev, Tat and Nef.

9. The DNA molecule of Claim 7 which comprises a molecular clone of HIV-1 or SIV.

10. A vector comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 1.

11. A composition comprising the vector of Claim 10.

12. A composition comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 1.

13. A method for immunizing a subject which comprises administering an immunizing effective amount of the DNA molecule of Claim 1.

14. The method of Claim 13 comprising further administering a recombinant protein or vector boost.

15. A method for immunizing a subject which comprises administering an immunizing effective amount of the vector in Claim 10.

16. The method of Claim 15 comprising further administering a recombinant protein boost.

17. A method for immunizing a subject which comprises administering an immunizing effective amount of the composition of Claim 11.

18. The method of Claim 17 comprising further administering a recombinant protein boost.

19. A method for immunizing a subject with comprises administering an immunizing effective amount of the composition of Claim 12.

20. The method of Claim 19 further comprising administering a recombinant protein or vector boost.

21. A method for augmenting a cellular immune response to a virus which comprises administering an effective amount of the DNA molecule of Claim 1 to augment the cellular immune response to the virus.

22. The method of Claim 21 further comprising administering a recombinant protein or vector boost.

23. A method for augmenting a cellular immune response to a virus which comprises administering an effective amount of the vector of Claim 10 to augment the cellular immune response to the virus.

24. The method of Claim 23 further comprising administering a recombinant protein boost.